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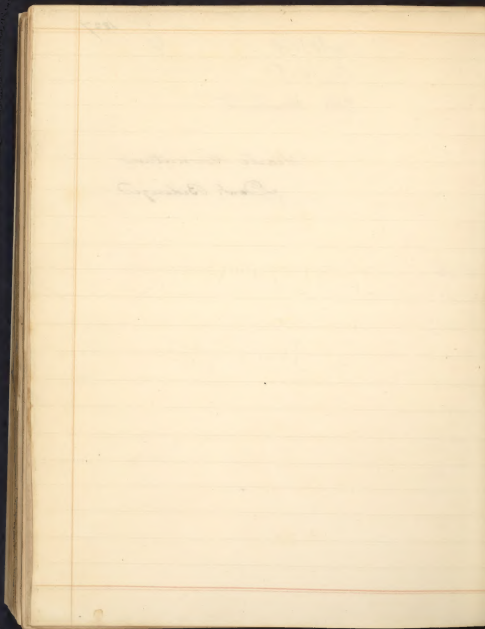
6 1827

Dec. 2^d.

309 Walnut

Secale Cornutum

Dan. Bedinger



Paid March 1827

W. E. H.

An

Essay on the Properties

of the

Local Corruptions

or

Bigotry

By Daniel Bedinger

of Virginia.

1826.

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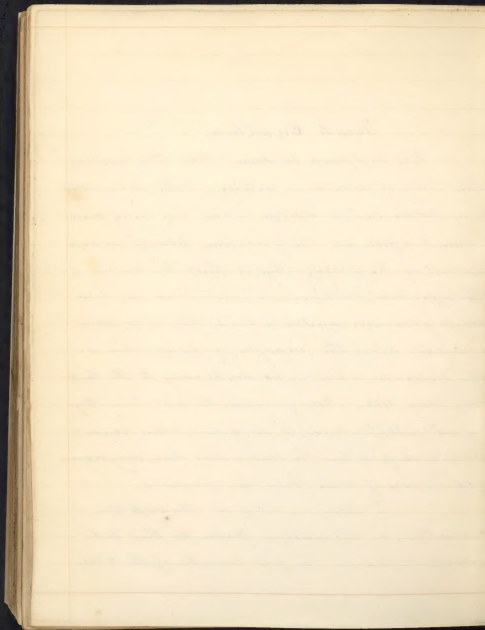
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Tecale Castaneum.

It is supposed by some, that this useful, and truly extraordinary article, is the production of a disease called elavus, which has long been known to affect all the "gramineous plants," as well as, most of the grasses. Rye is most liable to this affection, particularly when sown in low, damp grounds: and it is said, that, it is more abundant along the margin of fides, than in their interiors, which is, no doubt, owing to the lands being more rich. New grounds, the first time they are cultivated, produce it in great abundance, particularly when the season has been very warm, and showers of rain have been frequent.

Dr William Tully of Middleton Comestant, in his excellent paper on this subject, published in the first number of the 2^d Vol.

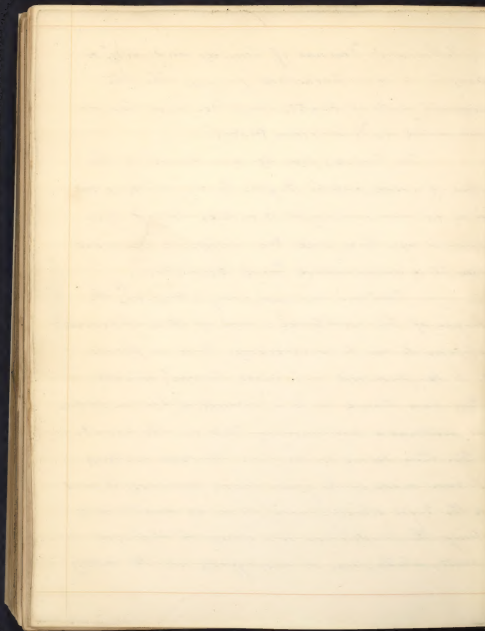


of Lillians' "Journal of Sciences and Arts," he
has it to be a parasitical fungus, like the
different sorts of blights, smut &c. and has de-
nominated it, "*Teleuticum Olearum*."

The French, from its resemblance to the
spur of a cock, call it *Égrot*. In England, as well
as in our own country, it is called, *Horned eye*,
Spurred eye, *harm-seed* &c. whilst, by Mexican
men, it is denominated *Locale Crismatum*.

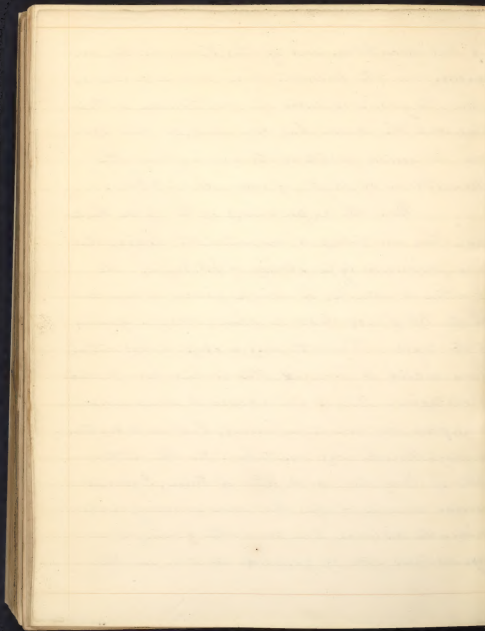
There are numerous conjectures, as ^{to} the
origin of this outbreak, most of them however,
appear to me to be erroneous. Some suppose
it to be produced by "small larvae," whilst
others have traced it to a "species of fermentation,"
at least, as a preliminary step in the plant.

But there seems to me, from the examinations
I have made of the grain which produces it, and
of the *Égrot* whilst growing, to be no sort of its
being the production of a species of blight, or
smut, which, more or less, affects all the plants



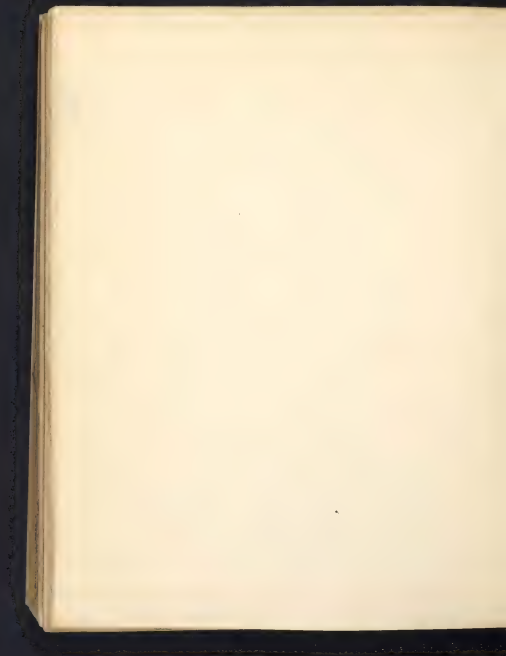
of this description, and of this, I am further con-
vinced, from the fact, that it is most abundant,
when the grain is sown in particular situa-
tions, and the season has been such, as most favo-
urs the quick growth of the grain, and the
production of light, of every description.

From the experiments of the late Fent-
on, there are facts to warrant the belief, that
it is produced by a species of contagion. He
planted a number of single grains of rye, and
on the top of each head he placed several grains
of the rye. The result was a crop of this article,
from which he inferred, that it had been produced
by contagion. But, if I be allowed to draw conclu-
sions, from my own experiments, I should certain-
ly say, that, he was mistaken. In the latter
part of May last and first of June, I found
several bunches of rye, that were growing, a con-
siderable distance from any other grain, in a
dry, elevated spot of ground. as soon as the



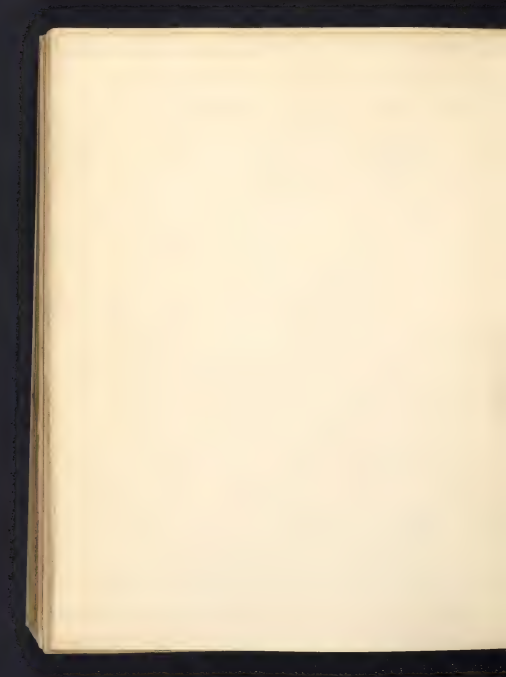
used made their appearance, & I used on
each of them, some similar to the first, and yet
the colour in which the grain was becoming ripe,
but there was no light produced. The grain
I used as usual, was perfectly sound, and
showed not the least appearance of infection.
I tried the experiment in another way. When
the eye was in full bloom, I found on the 5th
as green as I could, and sprinkled it over
each head in the eye was, however, but the
bloom had fallen off. Still there was no sign of
this or that, the grain as usual, was a more some
aspect, when it ripened. From these experiments
and I was necessarily led to the conclusion, that
the whole system, attributed to contagion, was
in vain, or at least, in vain, might have been.

Just before, in a letter to Sir George Baker,
on speaking of this substance, I said, there were
for other diseases in which eye and infection,
which were more common with each other,

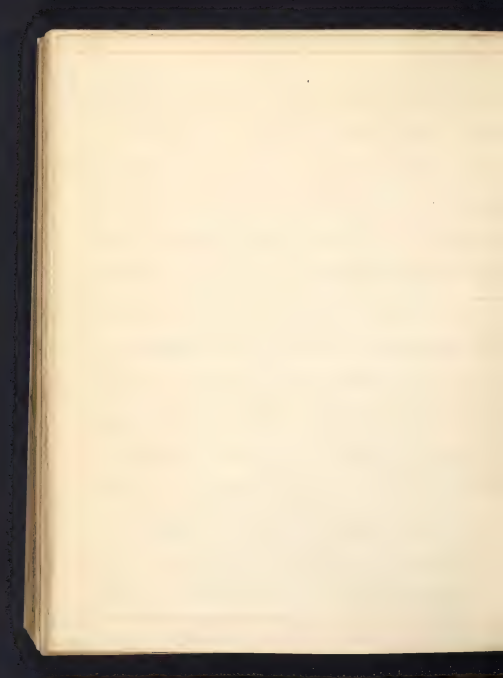


and with this, which produces the *h. c.* in
a denominated, the "strife or mildness" the other
"strife, culture, or light". The strife is character-
istic of a selfish, grosser nature, or a gentlemanly na-
ture, which is more in the state of mind, or
the state, and is very abundant in the former.
The strife, culture, or light is a state of mind, and
denomination of the grain.

The Locomotive Corn is generally found, in the form of elongated, flattened kernels at both ends, projecting from the middle of the ear. The ear considerably longer, and the grain in perfect grain, being more eight in lateral lines in length, and from a line, to two lines in width. They are of a bluish-black color alternately, as if a line with a white within, and when dry, they are harder, and of a more coriaceous texture, than the round grains. Sometimes, very grain in the stalk of eye is affixed, the quantity there are 10, and, on a few stalks, to twelve grains, in

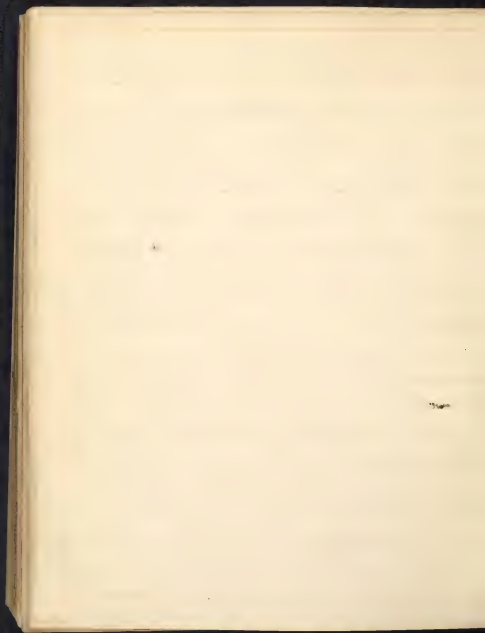


in a head. It possesses little or no taste, and
it is said, that, was made of the Toga, does no
sign in this respect, more than made, or the
same age. The cause of the time of year it
was known, the complexion was, was brownish &
the woman had. In some cases, too, as when
the grain, called "black wheat," would produce
cough, headache, vertigo and gangrenous ulcers,
and it has long been supposed, that, the same
symptoms would be observed in Germany, France,
and other parts of Europe, was the effect of
eating bread, made of tainted wheat. But the
communication given to the world of the
disease of me, and of its producing effects upon
the human system, was in Mr. Loomis, the
editor published in the "Gleaner and Countryman,"
in March 1878. The facts were observed a few
years before, by the physicians and Surgeons
of Valognes, in which district the disease had
been very prevalent. The statements of Loomis,



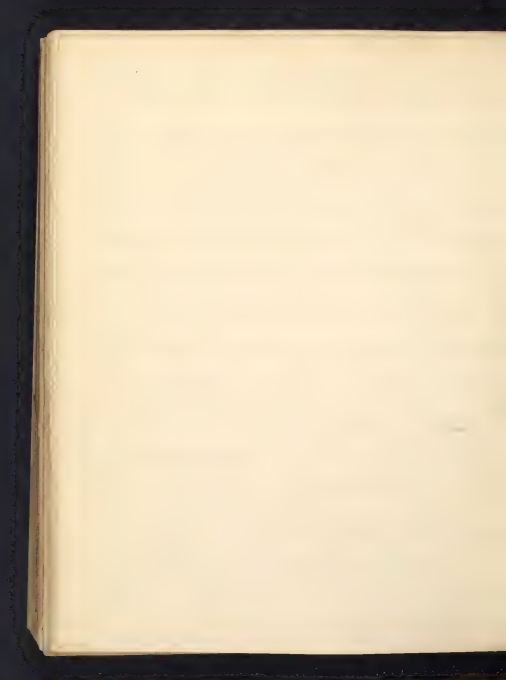
Dr. Bedard and others of the signifying effects
in this article upon the human body, have
more recently been confirmed, by the observa-
tion of Dr. Lachance Surgeon of the "Hotel Dieu"
of Orleans, when he had many opportunities
of seeing the disease, in all its stages. He states,
that, those who were a few days dead, rose up
again with a very gangrenous, and swollen face,
the cutaneous being affected, becoming as dry as
leath-wood, and as emaciated as an Egyptian
mummy."

The symptoms of Dry Gangrene are
somewhat differently described, by different writers.
They all however coincide in representing a dry
gangrene, and ultimately death, as the ordinary
result of the disease. It commences with insen-
sibility and swelling, but with little inflammation
of the surrounding tissues. A degree of heat in
the more extensive is then observed, accompa-
nied according to some writers, with a sense of



prickling, and on the creeping of insects upon the
skin: a slight degree of swelling, and with it, an
inflammation arises, sometimes accompanied by
the most excruciating pain, and sense of burning
heat; generally however there is no pain, and
the uneasiness is felt in the feet. These sym-
ptoms are soon succeeded by extreme coldness,
the skin of the feet and legs becomes shrivelled
and of a dark blue, as if dried in smoke, and
at length black and putrid to the centre of
the foot. The limbs being in a gangrenous state, are in
a dried state, which may even compare to
that of a mummy. In regard to the dead, part
is separated by the necrotic from the living,
it requires amputation. In this condition
of the limbs, deprived of one, sometimes of both
feet, more sources of the disease, some indivi-
duals have survived for months, or even years.

The swelling chiefly of the eyelids, eyes,
seems not to be confined to the human body.



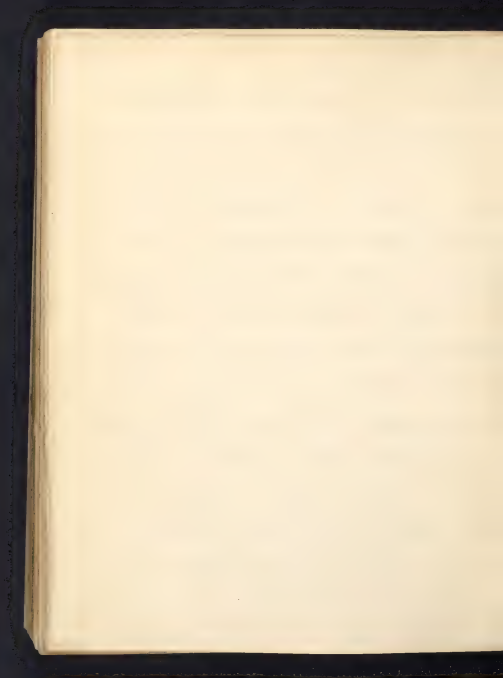
that of the winter in suspension, from the autumn
down to the previous day, but, that when it is given
a fully developed animal as food, it produces
the same effects, as it manure, and destroys life.

The more recent experiments of Dr. Lissier and
others go to prove the facts above stated. Lissier
found, that by dipping ducks and other ani-
mals with this medicine, it produced a disease
resembling the very gangrene in the human
system. But not withstanding the many
statements which have been published, of the
destructive effects of this medicine on human
animals, they still existed wholly of their own
conjecture, and the question seemed now to have
been satisfactorily settled, when Dr. Williams
E. D.D. of Virginia wrote in 1891, as the
subject of his "Essay on the Diseases of the
Human System." In ducks, which Lissier
and others had used, from such a quantity
of this medicine, and with the same results, except



was in one case, there was a real gangrene
instead of a ray, which shows that the ray,
as well as the ray gangrene, may be produced
in the use of this substance.

Although this question is now settled
beyond a doubt, yet to satisfy myself, to
ascertain the effects of this strange substance,
and see the disease which it produces, in all
its stages, I procured, on the 15th of September
last, a full grown duck, in the penitence of
Machina the experiment. I was surprised
by mixing the ray with its food, but I soon
found, that it would starve for days, rather than
eat the food thus prepared, nor could I disguise
it, in any way, so that it would eat it. After
several attempts, to proceed with the experiment,
I concluded to force upon it a certain portion of
this substance every day, and accordingly began
on the 18th by giving it 20 grains twice
a day, and in 12 days it died. The first two or three



days after its administration the duck seemed
to be little affected. On the 21st it began to droop,
bury its wings, appear all food and appeared
much weakened. In this way it continued, for
two or three days, without much change in its
appearance, except that its strength seemed
gradually to fail. On the 24th there was a
rising discharge from its mouth, nostrils and
eyes, which continued until its death. When this
discharge first appeared, it was a serous fluid but
in a day or two it became thicker, had the ap-
pearance of being mixed with a sanious secret
and smelled exceedingly & odid. The skin upon
the bill now became shivered, and along its edges
of a dark color, the feet also seemed to be affected,
for it waddled with difficulty, as if its feet were
frozen, and when emaciated, the ends of the
tong and the web between them, were of a black
color, and harder, and drier, than natural.
On the evening of the 24th it died, and was



diseasing it, the next morning the whole body
seemed to be diseased. The skin was completely
infected with blood, the vessels of which appeared
to have given way, and the whole surface was
of a dark colour as if it had been bled.
The inner surface of the liver was of a dark greenish
colour - and the gall bladder much distended,
with a rusty looking bile. The lungs, except a
very small part of their upper ends, were compl-
etely gangrenous - in the stomach I could see
very little alteration - the intestines were in a
state verging on mortification. The ovaries
were little affected, with the exception of which, no
part of the body seemed to have escaped the
effects of the Lead. This case, though the death
occurred before the cure was complete, shows
that it is capable of producing that disease, and
proves the deadly effects, which this substance
produces, when it is used as food for any length
of time. The liver appears to produce disease,



in gradually reducing the morbid energy of
the system, and consequently weakening the pow-
ers of the circulation so much, that after a while,
it ceases to be carried on in the extremities, and
therefore, they first become affected with mortifi-
cation. Besides the spontaneous rancor of the
extremities, another species of disease, even more
formidable than the one described above, has
been ascribed to the legs, by Hoffmann, I think I
some other writers: but with some justice or pro-
priety, seems to admit of a question. The disease,
as described by these writers, appears to be a febrile
disorder, of a contagious and malignant char-
acter, generally accompanied and characterised
by various spasmodic and convulsion symptoms,
by which or by a general epilepsy, the patient
was carried off. This disease, prevailed, as an
epidemic, in various parts of Germany, dur-
ing the 16th and 17th centuries and the description
given of it, by the professors of the university of



Murphey, is referred to as the first account of the disease, but in this description there is no mention made of the rye, and bad bread, together with other crude and holosomic food were only mentioned as the cause of this epidemic. The statement of the origin of this disease given by Linnaeus corresponds with those of the Murphey, and is given probably upon their authority. "A malignant vapour or miasmata vitiate the brain and nerves", he supposes to be the exciting cause of the disease. From the statements of these authors it is obvious, that the original writers considered a secondary cause, and that of a bad quality, as the cause of this epidemic, and not the rye, as has been stated by late writers, since there is no mention made of this article by them. Hoffman gives the following description of the symptoms of this epidemic, which was called by the German writers in "convulsive plague". "The disease in its



commencement occupying the limbs and the ex-
tremities of the hands and feet in which a
sense of numbness is felt. In some instances
it commences with sickness and vomiting.
Then followed violent spasmodic contractions of
the fingers and toes, which at length attacked
the knees, shoulders, elbows and even the face, eyes
and lips, accompanied by an intolerable pain,
and sometimes, by a sense of unusual coldness, some-
times of burning heat. These symptoms return
at various periods; and continue, for several
days, as the pain diminished, the patient falls
into a state of stupor and insensibility, these fits
are attended with a violent and is a relief with
quitting and death. The most common
signs and death is the lower extremities.
In the extreme legs, large vesicles, filled with
serum when a spasm, and sometimes a few blisters
which pass into a dangerous condition, and in
a very short time, which is attended with



The same have been also found. The tale of an
oral convention is a most occasionally inter-
vening, and never enters, as decidedly a children's

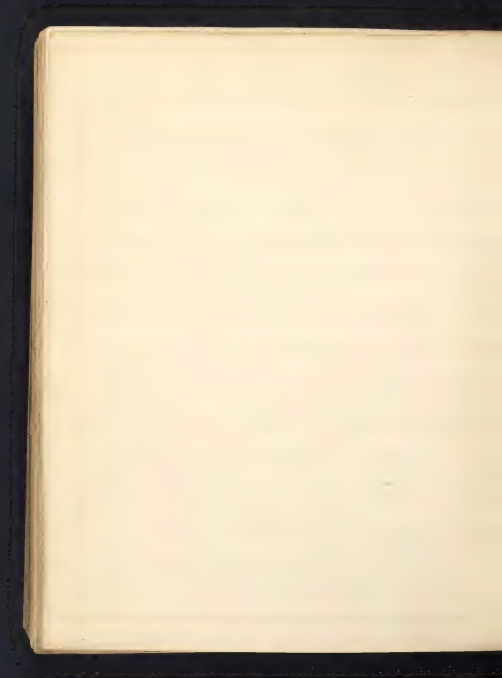
During the late war between Great
Britain and America, our troops, which were
stationed on the borders of Canada were attacked
by a large indigenous force, and the ensuing
warfare affecting, which produced great mis-
chief amongst them, and were attributed by
the Americans, even of the same to the "Coastal
convention, as upon a late grounds has
been mentioned.

Numerous instances are to be found
which have been ascribed to the use of the opium
and various and confused are the descrip-
tions, which have been given of them in different
writings— Still it seems probable, that, the true
effects of the rejected drug are to be found even
in the opium papers, and even in the same
and specimens of things which have been attributed to it.



It is said that the liquid is more than six
times more viscid than the best oil of
olive, and it is composed of volatile and fixed
oil, which it is kept in the liquid, for a few months.
This statement appears to me to be somewhat
doubtful; for the oil, which I used, from the
experience of many years, seemed to have retained
all the properties ascribed to this oil, although
it had been exposed to a great heat.

The credit of establishing this extraordinary
substance as ~~an~~ an article of the human
diet, is due to St. Thomas of Aquino, who
first published it, although it is said to have been
much earlier used as a means of procuring
food in France, where it was not in general
use, and ceased to be employed, after a short
time, since it was known that it could be
again brought to the public, by St. Thomas,
in a letter to St. Thomas of Aquino, and
sent to the world, his signature and the use.



is the Egg as a medicine, and its wonderful
agency in accelerating lingering labour. Since
this first publication, the different Colleges of
our Country have turned with astonishment and
account, of its nature and properties to certain well
known cases in which it had been used, many
of which, are exactly opposite to each other - and
the cases reported in which it has been employed,
have scarcely been more numerous than the
different opinions of its properties given by the
medical men of our country.

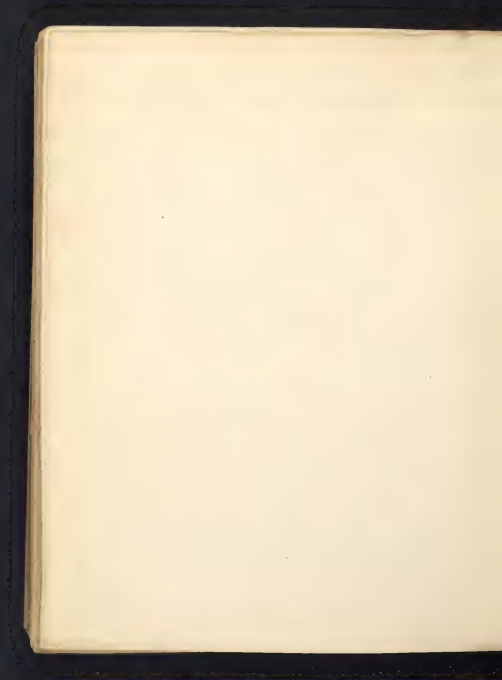
Some considered it to be one of the most
useful discoveries of the age, and the most certain
and prompt means of procuring lingering labour
a means by which the suffering mother might be
spared many a pang, and the child rescued
from the danger which is always attendant upon
so much uncertainty, its assistance to this world it was.
Others, considered it as one which might
be the cause of much mischief: as it evidently





statement upon this subject. Henao tells us in the same paper, that in these cases of ring proof, neither written, nor oral, the ordinary evidences must even be omitted, and the sentence - though suspended, as regards the results of conviction, reserved - to await, giving it its proper rank in the ordinary scale.

[illegible]



more than it appeared to be in using it the child
or the thing. In the every case, it is seen to have
been so immediately, the child being in pain
and in a peculiar manner, and it was in position
to restore it to use again.

In the statements above given, it would
seem, that the Ergot is evidently pernicious to the
wellfare and safety of the child. But I think when
it has been ascribed to the effects of the Ergot, might
with propriety, be traced to some more probable
cause, since I am induced to believe, that this
emetic and gently cathartic preparation, might
have attributed to the use of this article, or the
unavoidable decay, or perhaps, other circumstances
might have produced. He tells us that they
were cases of "long protracted labour", and that
the "child would be unable to become relaxed".
I am aware these circumstances, it is well
known to every practitioner of the science,
that the child is very often and perhaps, often



still runs, but in any other condition, and it
is more than probable it would have been the
case, in the instances given, if there had been
no Elixir administered: and although there
was no evidence of the death of the child, it may
not prove that the child was alive: since, after
Calom has continued, for some time, there is no
sign, which in this respect is negligible.

Now the opinion of Dr. Hosack and
Moore, of the operation of this substance upon
the child, as stated above correct: it would
indeed be a sufficient reason to deter us from its
employment, and its use should not once be
recommenced, by every honest practitioner. But
the extensive experience of Dr. Chapman, Den-
=ees and Lamez, men whose names stand a-
=mongst the first on the list of medical
men in our country, and who are superior
to every one in the world, contradict this
most positively. These gentlemen have used



to in such cases, the same case, and more
have shown no injury to result from its employ-
ment, either to the mother, or child, when the re-
medy has been judiciously used. Let us further
evidence then could we ask of the beneficial effects
of this substance, and of the importance of the
discovery than the extensive experience of these
gentlemen, or who would decide against its
use, when there are two hundred cases, in which
it has been used with complete success, to decide
its usefulness?

This medicine, as a physician, stands
unrivaled among all the remaining calomels
of which we have heard one that is medicine?
instead of the only one to which the name can
be applied with propriety.

The mode of administering the same
remedy together in persons, to the use of
18 or 20 grains, or at intervals of 12 or 15 grains,
is the most common and convenient way of



giving it. The touching of the bowden is limited
or diffused, in a small portion of water, for a
few moments, on which of which organ is taken
some three or four minutes, until its effects are in-
duced. The same 10 or 15 minutes after it has
been given, the uterus is excited to strong and
rich pulsations, which continue with little or
no intermission or abatement, for a short time
and then entirely cease. A repetition of the
same process succeeds in the same species, so
that, in its administration to parturient women
even he may find it necessary, can almost al-
ways induce a speedy and violent contraction
of this organ, which enables him to manage many
cases, that, without its aid, would be extremely
troublesome and somewhat utterly unmanageable.

A large dose of the accretion or of
the powder produces nausea and vomiting,
and more or less deleterious effects which are known
to be the consequence of its constant use have



was not known to result from any other
Source, when used as a remedy of venereal
disease.

From the richness of the materials
they furnish, history, it will be found to
be abundant, in the most liberal & extensive
sense, to its administration, for the
1st time is for the well directed and true
the preservation of a national one, which
the construction of the history is
sufficient to effect, in order to give a
wise & happy, his nation, as well as
for the 1st time, the construction of a
national one. By this article, we see the
most tender tendency to overcome the rigidity
of the 1st party, we must also see
circumstances, when its use is thought necessary,
as to a thousand, which have been found
not to answer this purpose, in the first place,
containing, the evidence of thousands of years



it may be used even with the most perfect safety, in many cases which without it would require the application of the cruet.

The light seems best adapted to cases of Angina and protracted labour from a stop of the uterus, and, in such cases, it may be used to great advantage. Most often, a bidine is used, the frequency of the uterine contractions rather, and reserving the child from the danger which always attends it in such circumstances.

In some cases, tapping the abdomen may be necessary and perfectly safe, but all the soft parts are completely relaxed, and even whilst the uterine contractions have given way, when from some unknown, or accidental cause the pains suddenly cease, and the labour is suspended for hours. Under these circumstances a dose of the light would probably & surely terminate the labour. Cases of this



Kind is noticed in a communication, on the
Medical proceedings of the Linnæan Society,
by Dr. Aitken of Philadelphia, published in the
4th Volume of the Medical Recorder. In this case
the pains had entirely ceased, at bed time, &
did not recur again during the night. In the
morning, a scruple of the root was given, &
before the expiration of half an hour, his
patient was delivered of a fine son.

It is likewise said to have been suc-
cessful, with complete success, to promote delivery
in cases complicated with puerperal convulsions.

The case of hemorrhage, it may also
be used with much advantage, as in the ear-
ly stage of pregnancy, when a lotion stimulating
and has withstood the usual remedies of
venesection and opiate, external and internal
use of astringents, styptics &c. when the he-
morrhage is alarming and the contractions
of the uterine fibres: Or, in cases of flood.



near the end of gestation, when the contractions
have entered the labor power, it is too much to
be expected, it appears to me that this will thus
enable us of great advantage, and often times
the means of saving the life of the unfortunate
woman.

My friend Dr. George B. Jones a gen-
tleman of some business and management of judi-
ciousness, and long used the same in his practice,
told me that in case of labor, when he has
reason to expect ^{the delivery of the child,} the delivery of the child, he is
in a situation of prescribing a dose of this
medicine just at the time that he expects
delivery to take place, and always with the
most decided advantage. It not only gives
the patient most effectually, against the morbid
by sustaining the tonic contraction of the uterus,
but also facilitates the expulsion of the placenta
and prevents the occurrence of after pains, which
are always found so much to harass the woman.



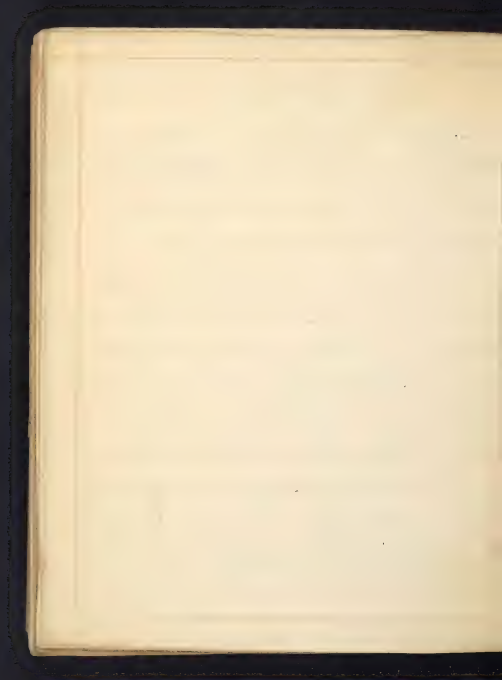
when the contracting of this organ are weak.

This is a peculiar condition of the uterus, which, although it is of rare occurrence, has not escaped the notice of Mr. Menou and other eminent accoucheurs. It is a torpor of this organ after a difficult labour, preventing the contraction of the uterus, so soon as might be expected, or even some, nearly as much delayed, as at the first time of gestation. It is very hard through the pulsing of the abdomen and attended with a pain described as crampy. In this case, the power of the uterus & spine is completely exhausted, and some artificial stimulus is required to excite or revive them again. For this purpose, there is no article more easy so prompt and powerful as the rectum, and, in this case (in my humble opinion) no plan of treatment seems so business like and would succeed better than a dose of this medicine.



An excessive discharge of Lymph is now
known to be owing to an increased action of the
vessels of the uterus, which were connected with the
blacenta, and this state of the vessels is a disease
attendant upon a want of power in the uterus:
would it not then, under such circumstances, be
advantageous, occasionally, to make use of this
article?

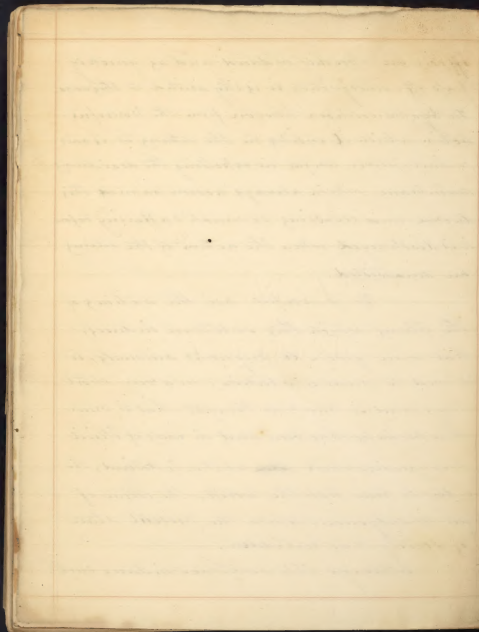
From the specific action which the
Local Permutum exercises over the uterus, it was
thought, when it was first brought into Publick
notice, that it promised much as an emmen-
agogue, but subsequent experience has proved,
that, although it is expected from it, as a me-
dicine of this class. Amenorrhoea depends
upon a "wrong or perverted action of the uter-
ine," generally slowly induced, to remove which,
the remedy used should act gradually, slowly
and powerfully upon the uterus. But the
agent is not an article of this nature. It



effects are speedily induced and as quickly
pass off, consequently it is illly suited to this case.
In Dysmenorrhoea however from the powerful
action which it excites in the uterus it is said
to have proved useful in expelling the decidua
membrane, which always accompanies this
disease and occasions so much suffering before
it is discharged when the action of the uterus
is unassisted.

So powerful are the actions of
the uterus which this substance induces,
that when given to pregnant animals, it
is said to produce a labour, in a very short
time, and it has been thought that it may
and perhaps has been used in cases of illicit
pregnancies, where ~~when~~ a labour is desired, in
order to hide from the world, the crime of
an indulgence, which the present state
of society has forbidden.

Although this substance induces such



powerful actions in the pregnant uterus
as to expel its contents before its usual time.
yet I have been told by a medical gentleman
of my acquaintance, who had made the
experiment, that, when given to an unimpreg-
-nated female, it produced no other effect,
than a slight increase about the region
of the uterus. In the male, its effects are
scarcely perceptible. To ascertain this fact,
on the 6th of October I made a strong decoction
of thirty grains of the Ergot, one half of
which I took, and finding that it had
no effect, in 20 minutes time, I took the
other. It produced no effect whatever, except
a slight nausea. The pulse was not affected
in the slightest degree, nor was there any
change in the state of the system, that
I could perceive.

Finis.

